

House Speaker Kevin McCarthy floats an impeachment inquiry into President Joe Biden

By LISA MASCARO

AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Speaker Kevin McCarthy says Republican lawmakers may consider an impeachment inquiry of President Joe Biden over unproven claims of financial misconduct, responding to enormous GOP pressure to demonstrate support for Donald Trump ahead of the 2024 presidential election.

Speaking Tuesday at the Capitol, McCarthy said the questions House Republicans are raising about the Biden family finances need to be investigated. So far, he acknowledged, the House's probes have not proven any wrongdoing, but an impeachment inquiry "allows Congress to get the information to be able to know the truth." An impeachment inquiry by the House would be a first step toward bringing articles of impeachment. Such a probe could be as lengthy or swift as the House determines, potentially stretching into campaign season.

"We will follow this to the end," he said, first floating the idea late Monday on Fox News.



Continued on Page 2

reporters following the visit and address to Congress by Israeli President Isaac Herzog, during a news conference at the Capitol in Washington, Wednesday, July 19, 2023.

Associated Press

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House Speaker Kevin McCarthy floats an impeachment inquiry into President Joe Biden

Continued from Front

It's the strongest comment yet from McCarthy on a potential Biden impeachment after the Republican leader sidelined earlier efforts by House conservatives to launch such an inquiry.

With a slim majority in the House, McCarthy faces demands from Trump allies to elevate their priorities. Trump himself questioned at a Fox News town hall last week why Biden has not yet been impeached.

McCarthy has not yet endorsed Trump, who is the GOP's early frontrunner for president, or any other GOP candidates. He denied a report that he is considering House votes to expunge Trump's two impeachments as another way of showing support. McCarthy on Tuesday gave no timeline for launching an impeachment inquiry into Biden and said he hadn't spoken to Trump about it. He declined to say if he would be making a presidential endorsement.

Asked if he felt pressure from Trump, he scoffed, "Do I look like I'm under pressure?"

White House spokesman Ian Sams said the House GOP's "eagerness to go after POTUS regardless of the truth is seemingly bottom-



Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., talks to reporters outside his office about calls for an impeachment inquiry of President Joe Biden, at the Capitol in Washington, Tuesday, July 25, 2023.

Associated Press

less," using shorthand for the President of the United States.

"Instead of focusing on the real issues Americans want us to address like continuing to lower inflation or create jobs, this is what the House GOP wants to prioritize," Sams said on Twitter. Republicans in Congress have ramped up investigations of Biden and his son Hunter Biden. House Republicans are digging into the family finances, particularly payments the younger Biden received from Burisma, a Ukrainian energy company that became tangled in the first impeachment of Trump.

Hunter Biden has since reached an agreement with prosecutors to plead

guilty to misdemeanor charges of having failed to pay income taxes for several years. He is set to appear in court this week in that case.

But Republicans continue to pursue a debunked theory stemming from the first Trump impeachment about Burisma. An unnamed confidential FBI informant claimed that Burisma company officials in 2015 and 2016 sought to pay the Bidens \$5 million each in return for their help ousting a Ukrainian prosecutor who was purportedly investigating the company. The Justice Department launched a review of the informant's claims in 2020 under Trump's Attorney General William Barr. The

probe was closed eight months later with insufficient evidence of wrongdoing.

Still, last week, Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, released the FBI's so-called FD-1023 form — with unverified claims from the informant — providing a full, public look at the allegations.

Grassley, working with House Oversight Chairman James Comer, R-Ky., wants further investigation. Comer had subpoenaed the FBI for the document.

Democrats on the Oversight panel countered Monday with a four-page memo rebutting the allegations.

In the memo, Democrats point to other documents, including from Lev Parnas, a former associate of Trump attorney Rudy Giuliani who claimed to have first-hand knowledge of some of the conversations and disputed the allegations. Parnas said one of the Burisma officials told him the claims are not true.

The Democrats also note that it wasn't just Biden who wanted Ukrainian prosecutor Viktor Shokin ousted, but other Western allies were also raising concerns that Shokin was failing to investigate corruption in Ukraine. Biden has repeatedly said he never speaks to his son about his overseas business

dealings.

White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre declined Tuesday to entertain questions about potential impeachment proceedings, reflecting the administration's thinking that is a political diversion that doesn't have support of the public or even the entirety of McCarthy's GOP majority.

McCarthy's brief comments late Monday on Fox appeared intentional rather than simple banter with the show's host, Sean Hannity. He said that Biden's actions are "rising to the level of impeachment inquiry."

The speaker's appearance came as Trump was meeting at his Bedminster, N.J., club with Ohioans including Rep. Jim Jordan, the Republican chairman of the Judiciary Committee, who would presumably lead an impeachment inquiry. A spokesman for Jordan said the visit was about unrelated Ohio matters.

McCarthy said Tuesday that the committees will continue their investigations. The Oversight Committee is expected to hold a closed-door interview Monday with Devon Archer, a former business partner of Hunter Biden, who was convicted of securities fraud in a separate case. □

New Biden rule would make government websites and apps more accessible to people with disabilities



President Joe Biden speaks during a celebration of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and to mark Disability Pride Month, in the Rose Garden of the White House, Sept. 28, 2022, in Washington.

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Biden administration proposed new regulations Tuesday to make state and local government websites and apps for services like libraries, parking, transit and court records more accessible for people with disabilities. The new Justice Department rule would establish certain accessibility standards for websites and app-based services maintained by state and local governments, the White House announced. Those could include providing

text descriptions for photos for the visually impaired who use screen readers, and captioning for government videos.

Administration officials say such websites and government services have not been as accessible as they should be for people with disabilities, and that President Joe Biden was aiming to change that. Wednesday is the 33rd anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

"President Biden has been completely clear that ev-

eryone in America has to be able to share in the benefits of technology," said Arati Prabhakar, director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. "That means a digital infrastructure that works for the 25 percent of Americans who are living with a disability."

The timing of when the more stringent standards would go into effect will be more clear once the proposed rule from the DOJ is formally released, administration officials said. □

A judge blocks limits on asylum at U.S.-Mexico border

By REBECCA SANTANA

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal judge on Tuesday blocked a rule that allows immigration authorities to deny asylum to migrants who arrive at the U.S.-Mexico border without first applying online or seeking protection in a country they passed through. But the judge delayed his ruling from taking effect immediately to give President Joe Biden's administration time to appeal.

The order from U.S. District Judge Jon Tigar of the Northern District of California takes away a key enforcement tool set in place by the Biden administration as coronavirus-based restrictions on asylum expired in May. The new rule imposes severe limitations on migrants seeking asylum but includes room for exceptions and does not apply to children traveling alone.

"The Rule which has been in effect for two months cannot remain in place," Tigar wrote in an order that will not take effect for two weeks.

The Justice Department said it would seek to prevent the judge's ruling from taking effect and that it's confident the rule is lawful. Immigrant rights groups that sued over the rule applauded the judge's decision.

"The promise of America is to serve as a beacon of freedom and hope, and the administration can and should do better to fulfill this promise, rather than perpetuate cruel and ineffective policies that betray it," American Civil Liberties Union attorney Katrina Eiland, who argued the case, said in a statement. The ACLU and other groups had argued the rule violates a U.S. law that protects the right to asylum regardless of how a person enters the country. The groups said it forces migrants to seek protection in countries that don't have the same robust asylum system and human rights protections as the United



Migrants wait to be processed after crossing the border, Jan. 6, 2023, near Yuma, Ariz.

Associated Press

as 30,000 migrants from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua and Venezuela if they have a sponsor and fly into the U.S. The judge noted that such pathways are not available to all migrants. The Biden administration also argued that it was allowing potentially hundreds of thousands of people into the U.S. through the CBP One app. Migrants use the app to schedule an appointment to present themselves at the border to seek entry to the U.S. and request asylum. Tigar noted that the 1,450 appointments currently available daily outstrips demand, leaving asylum seekers waiting in Mexico where they're at "serious risk of violence." □

States. They also argued that the CBP One app the government wants migrants to use doesn't have enough appointments and isn't available in enough languages.

The administration had argued that protection systems in other countries that migrants travel through have improved. But Tigar said it's not feasible for some migrants to seek protection in a transit country and noted the violence that many face in Mexico in particular.

"While they wait for an adjudication, applicants for asylum must remain in Mexico, where migrants are generally at heightened risk of violence by both state and non-state actors," the judge wrote. He also wrote that the rule is illegal because it presumes that people are ineligible for asylum if they enter the country between legal border crossings. But, Tigar wrote, Congress expressly said that should not affect whether someone is eligible for asylum.

The judge also rejected the administration's arguments that it had provided other avenues for people to come to the U.S. and that should be taken into account. The administration has pointed to a program that allows as many

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Gynecologist accused of sexually abusing over 200 patients is sentenced to 20 years in prison

By **LARRY NEUMEISTER**

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A gynecologist who sexually abused vulnerable and trusting patients for over two decades at prestigious New York hospitals cried before he was sentenced Tuesday to 20 years in prison by a federal judge who called his crimes unprecedented.

The sentence for Robert Hadden, 64, was a measure of vindication for hundreds of former patients who accused the doctor of molesting them during examinations but saw an earlier prosecution end with a plea bargain that spared him from jail.

Given his chance to speak Tuesday, Hadden stood with his hands folded before him to say that there was "much I'd like to say" but that he had been advised by his lawyers to keep his statement brief.

"I'm very sorry for all the pain that I have caused," a sobbing Hadden said before dropping his head down as he sat again. He then took off his glasses and wiped tears from his eyes. In statements over the past two days, U.S. Dis-



Sexual assault victims share smiles as they gather for a group photograph after sentencing proceedings concluded for convicted sex offender Robert Hadden outside Federal Court, Tuesday, July 25, 2023, in New York.

Associated Press

trict Judge Richard M. Berman said the case was like none he'd seen before and involved "outrageous, horrific, beyond extraordinary, depraved sexual abuse." He noted that at least 245 women Hadden treated said they were abused. The federal trial involved a smaller number of victims. Hadden was convicted of four counts of enticing

women to cross state lines so he could sexually abuse them.

Nine victims testified at the trial, describing how Hadden molested them during gynecology treatments, starting in the late 1980s, at prominent hospitals, including Columbia University Irving Medical Center and NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital. Allegations of mis-

conduct during examinations first surfaced in 2012. Hadden was indicted on state charges in 2014 as women 19 and counting kept coming forward. But in 2016, the office of the Manhattan district attorney at the time, Cyrus Vance Jr., allowed Hadden to plead guilty to two low-level felonies and a misdemeanor in a deal that required him to

give up his medical license but didn't require jail time and kept him out of the state's sex offender registry. Some of the women who had gone to state prosecutors were outraged, but their stories didn't start receiving public attention until the #MeToo movement began gaining steam in 2017. Federal prosecutors in Manhattan got a grand jury indictment against Hadden in 2020, charges based on the fact that some patients at his New York offices had come into the city from suburbs in other states. He was convicted in January.

Several dozen of Hadden's accusers were in the courtroom for his sentencing. Among them was Liz Hall, who said she found Hadden's expression of regret hollow. "That was not an apology. He has shown zero remorse or empathy. I think he's incapable," she said. Hall said she hoped the sentence would give other victims of sexual abuse courage to speak out. "It's the first time ever that the justice system did what it was supposed to do: take it seriously," she said. □

3 found dead in car at N. Carolina gas station are identified as Marines stationed nearby

By **HANNAH SCHOENBAUM**

Associated Press/Report for America

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Three men who were found

dead over the weekend at a North Carolina gas station have been identified as Marine lance corporals stationed at nearby Camp



Signage stands on the main gate to Camp Lejeune Marine Base outside Jacksonville, N.C., Friday, April 29, 2022.

Associated Press

Lejeune, the U.S. Marine Corps said Tuesday. Deputies from the Pender County Sheriff's Office found the three men unresponsive Sunday morning in a privately owned car at a Speedway gas station in Hampstead, 29 miles (47 kilometers) southwest of the base, the department said in a statement. Medical authorities pronounced all three dead the same day, and their cause of death has not been released.

Sgt. Chester Ward of the Pender County Sheriff's Office said the department had received a missing person report for one of the three Marines, but he de-

clined to share details. No drugs were found in the vehicle, he said.

"We do not suspect anything as far as foul play in that matter," Ward told The Associated Press, noting that the sheriff's office is waiting on autopsy results because the cause of death "might be something that we don't see."

The U.S. Marine Corps identified the men as Tanner J. Kaltenberg, 19, of Madison, Wisconsin; Merax C. Dockery, 23, of Pottawatomie, Oklahoma; and Ivan R. Garcia, 23, of Naples, Florida. The men were motor vehicle operators with the Combat Logistics Battalion

2, Combat Logistics Regiment 2 and 2nd Marine Logistics Group at Camp Lejeune, said First Lt. Raymond Fullbright, of the 2nd Marine Logistics Group.

"My deepest sympathy and condolences are extended to the family, friends, and colleagues of Lance Cpl. Kaltenberg, Lance Cpl. Dockery and Lance Cpl. Garcia," said Brig. Gen. Michael McWilliams, commanding general of the 2nd Marine Logistics Group. "Our focus is providing the necessary resources and support to those impacted by their tragic loss as they navigate this extremely difficult time." □

Myanmar's military plans to move Suu Kyi to house arrest

By **GRANT PECK**

Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — Myanmar's military-controlled government plans to transfer the country's ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi from a prison in the capital, Naypyitaw, to home confinement. The move is part of an act of clemency to prisoners in connection with a religious ceremony next week, a security official said Tuesday.

There has been no official confirmation of the plans, though journalists working for outlets friendly to the military government said they had heard the same information. News about Suu Kyi is tightly controlled by the military government, and even her lawyers are banned by a gag order from talking to the media about her cases.

Suu Kyi, who was arrested on Feb. 1, 2021 when the army seized power from her elected government, has been sentenced to a total of 33 years in prison after being convicted on a range of charges brought by the military government that are widely seen as contrived for political purposes.

Several of her cases are awaiting final appeals. Her National League for



Myanmar's leader Aung San Suu Kyi, left, attends the bilateral meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping at the president house in Naypyitaw Myanmar, on Jan. 18, 2020.

Associated Press

Democracy party won a landslide victory in the 2020 election and was about to begin a second five-year term in office.

The official in Naypyitaw, who is familiar with Suu Kyi's situation, told The Associated Press that the military government will announce Suu Kyi's transfer on the occasion of consecrating a new giant statue of a sitting Buddha it has had built, a symbol of devotion in the majority Buddhist nation. The ceremony is due next

Tuesday.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he risks punishment since he is not authorized to release information, said he did not know exactly where she would be moved to or when.

The official said he was unable to confirm a report by the BBC's Myanmar-language service that she has already been transferred from the prison to a residence in Naypyitaw assigned to a deputy min-

ister-level Cabinet official. She was initially held after her arrest at her official residence in the capital, then moved to an undisclosed location widely believed to be on an army base before being transferred to prison on June 22, 2022.

The military's 2021 takeover and the crackdown on the armed resistance to it plunged the country into deadly chaos that some U.N. experts have called a civil war. Western governments, including the United

States, have imposed sanctions on Myanmar's military government and demanded the immediate release of Suu Kyi and other political detainees.

The reported plans for the 78-year-old Suu Kyi's release have been circulating two weeks since Thai Foreign Minister Don Pramudwinai met her in prison, becoming the first foreign visitor to be granted access to her since she was detained. Don told journalists she was in good health and conveyed her willingness to engage in talks to resolve the crisis gripping her strife-torn nation.

Suu Kyi has been unable to give her version of the July 9 meeting, said to have lasted about an hour-and-a-half. Myanmar's military confirmed the meeting had been held, but said it had no details because it was one-on-one between the ousted leader and the Thai diplomat.

Don revealed the event when he was attending a meeting in the Indonesian capital, Jakarta, of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. ASEAN, has been seeking to mediate an end to the violent conflict in Myanmar, which some members believe destabilizes the region. □

Taliban bans beauty salons in Afghanistan despite rare public protest

By **RAHIM FAIEZ**

Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — The Taliban announced Tuesday that all beauty salons in Afghanistan must now close as a one-month deadline ended, despite rare public opposition to the edict.

Sadiq Akif Mahjer, spokesman for the Taliban-run Virtue and Vice Ministry, did not say whether it would use force against salons that do not comply.

The ruling is the latest curb on the rights and freedoms of Afghan women and girls following edicts barring them from education, public spaces and most forms of employment.

The Taliban said it decided to ban beauty salons because they offered ser-

vices forbidden by Islam and caused economic hardship for the families of

grooms during wedding festivities.

Its earlier announcement of a one-month deadline for salons to wind down their businesses led to a rare public protest in which dozens of beauticians and makeup artists gathered in Kabul, the capital. Security forces used fire hoses and tasers and shot their guns into the air to break up the protest.

The ban also drew concern from international groups worried about its impact on female entrepreneurs.

The United Nations said it was engaged with Afghan authorities to get the prohibition reversed.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres "supports the efforts by the U.N. Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), which has called on the de facto authorities to halt the edict closing beauty salons. UNAMA has said that this restriction on women's rights will impact negatively on the economy and contradicts support for women's entrepreneurship, and we're seeking a reversal of the bans," U.N. deputy spokesman Farhan Haq said Monday.

The Taliban listed a series of services offered by beauty salons that it said violated Islam. □



Beauticians put makeup on customers at Ms. Sadat's Beauty Salon in Kabul, Afghanistan, Sunday, April 25, 2021.

Associated Press

Indonesian police crack down on traffickers who sent 122 people to sell their kidneys in Cambodia

By NINIEK KARMINI

Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)

— Indonesian police are investigating the illegal trade of human organs involving police and immigration officers who were accused of helping traffickers send 122 Indonesians to a hospital in Cambodia to sell their kidneys, police said Tuesday. Indonesian authorities arrested 12 people, including a police officer and an immigration officer, on July 19, and police will continue to crack down on human smuggling syndicates conducting the illegal trade of human organs, said Hengki Haryadi, the Jakarta police director for general crimes. He said all 122 victims, including factory workers, teachers and executives, had returned to Indonesia, and police were still searching a number of other victims whose testimony would be required by investigators.

"Most of the victims lost their jobs during the pandemic and they agreed to sell their organs because they needed money," Haryadi said, adding that six of the victims are still under observation of doctors.



Indonesian police officers escort suspects and display the items of evidence during a press conference at Jakarta police headquarters in Jakarta, Indonesia, Thursday, July 20, 2023.

Associated Press

Nine of the suspects were former organ trade victims who were accused of luring people from across Indonesia through social media into having their kidneys removed in Cambodia, Haryadi said. A 10th suspect was accused of sending them to Preah Ket Mealea Hospital in Cambodia's capital, Phnom Penh, for kidney transplant surgery. He said the turnover of the illegal trade in

human organs since 2019 by the group of suspects totaled about 24.4 billion rupiah (\$1.6 million), while each victim was promised 135 million rupiah (\$9,000). A low-ranking police officer in Bekasi, an immigration officer in Bali and 10 traffickers, three of whom were arrested in Cambodia, are part of a human trafficking ring that prey on vulnerable job seekers, Haryadi said. The immigration officer

from Bali was accused of abusing his power and falsifying documents for victims to travel overseas and received at least 3 million rupiah (\$200) for each person he smuggled to Cambodia. The suspects were charged with violating Indonesia's human trafficking law and face a maximum 15 years in prison and a fine of up to 600 million rupiah (\$39,000). The police officer from Bekasi city police, identified

only with the initial M., allegedly received 612 million rupiah (\$40,000) for helping the traffickers move from place to place to avoid police investigation, and he is also accused of obstructing the investigation. Under the 2007 Human Trafficking Law, the two officers face penalties of up to five years in prison if found guilty. Police paraded the 12 suspects at a news conference on July 20.

"There have been kidney trafficking transactions at the Cambodia's state-run Preah Ket Mealea Hospital," said Krishna Murti, the National Police head of international relations division. "We have been communicating and closely cooperating with the Cambodian police."

The World Health Organization first prohibited payments for organs in 1987 and many countries subsequently codified the prohibition into their national laws.

WHO estimated in 2008 that 5% of all transplants performed worldwide were illegal, and living donor kidneys is the most commonly reported form of organ trade. □

Opposition in Kenya gathers evidence of 'police atrocities' against protesters to take to the ICC

By EVELYNE MUSAMBI

Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)

— Opposition parties in Ke-



Kenya's opposition leader Raila Odinga speaks during a press briefing with journalists in Nairobi, Kenya, Tuesday, 25, July, 2023.

Associated Press

nya said on Tuesday they are filing charges against the government for "police atrocities" that left 30 people dead at the International Criminal Court in the wake of protests against the rising cost of living and the levying of new taxes. Opposition coalition leader Raila Odinga called for a press conference in the capital, Nairobi, announcing that his party was "assembling more evidence" of police brutality against protesters. He also said they were gathering evidence to prove "the targeting of people" from his "Luo ethnic community" living in western Kenya, where pro-

testers were admitted to hospital with bullet-related injuries.

Police have been accused of shooting at protesters using live bullets in areas where the opposition enjoys wide political support. Interior Minister Kithure Kindiki dismissed in a statement the opposition's claims as "malicious, false and intended to distort public opinion," saying police forces have remained "neutral, impartial and professional".

The ministry said one officer died and more than 300 others were injured in the protests. In the last three weeks, demonstra-

tions have spread across Kenya with people calling out President William Ruto's administration over the rising cost of living and newly imposed taxes that have caused a fuel price hike as tax on petroleum products doubled from 8% to 16%. Odinga said protests would continue but he did not give a date when the next wave of protests would start.

The opposition had called for protests on Wednesday, but later urged its supporters to instead hold a peaceful vigil to remember 50 people it said have died in demonstrations over the past weeks. □

Alto Vista chapel and its link to Aruba's origins

According to Etnia Nativa, in the 18th century most of the inhabitants of Aruba were indigenous who lived on the north coast, one of the largest communities lived in Alto Vista.

As they were very religious, they had a chief with the name of Antonio Silvester who guided them in the Christian life and it was he who decided to build a stone chapel with a roof of corn rods, which would serve as a place of prayer. In 1750 it was blessed by Father Algamesi who came from Coro-Venezuela and appointed Domingo Antonio Silvester as the island's first prosecutor in the name of the Spanish crown and Rome. In 1752 the prosecution passed into the hands of Antonio Silvester's son-in-law, Miguel Álvarez, who continued to guide the parishioners in their prayers.

According to the book, The History of Alto Vista by R.H. Nooyen, it is not known when Domingo Antonio Silvester came to Aruba from Venezuela. The elders believe Antonio was a Spaniard. In 1780, father Joseph Antonio de la Vegal called Bernardino Silvester, one of Antonio's sons with his wife Anna Cathalina Tromp, "neighbors and naturals of the island Aruba" and thus



they became natives.

At the end of the eighteen century many inhabitants the island died as a result of the black fever epidemic and since people believed that the Alto Vista area was the most infected, they began to build their homes further south within the Noord area, so the town of Noord began to grow into a community till getting its own Church. However religious festivals continued to be celebrated at this sacred native place, with the custom of arriving in procession to Alto Vista.

Two-hundred years after the beautiful time of Alto Vista, people can no longer see much of the town of Alto Vista from 1750. With a lot of work they found the old foundations of the Church of the Queen of

the Holiest Rosary to build a new chapel on the same place. The entire surrounding area was empty and desolated, making it hard to imagine that Alto Vista was a town at all. A hundred years later, people can see the remains of around twenty houses, some made of stone and others of clay. Nowadays, only around six of these houses remain.

South of the chapel in the yard two graves can be observed, there was the cemetery which father Pablo de Algemesi blessed. It is not certain, but it is believed that the two graves belong to Antonio Silvester and Miguel Alvares, according to Nooyen. About 50 meters near the chapel there are still the markings of an old house, where Antonio and Bernardino



Silvester would have lived. About 200 meters from the chapel there is a water tank which the locals call Tanki Cacique. In the past this tank was closed. But mostly water was brought out from the Poz di Noord, a well dug in the sand.

The chapel can be viewed from basically any point in

the north side, even from Paradera and Sero Plat. All the historical remains around the chapel provide us with an idea on how the old people of Alto Vista used to live. Don't miss the opportunity to visit a place of historical significance with a window to Aruba's past. □

Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Casa Del Mar Beach Resort

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure to recognize Emerald Ambassadors of Aruba. This lovely couple was respectively honored with

a certificate acknowledging their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honor certification is

presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests whom have visited Aruba 10, 20, and 35 years or more consecutively.

The three honoring levels are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honorees were:

Emerald Ambassadors Mr. Richard & Mrs. Barbara

Levine from Florida, United States.

Mr. and Mrs. Levine continue to bring their children and grandchildren to Aruba to this day. Their grandchildren arrived in Aruba as babies and are now all grown up.

Ms. Kimberley Richardson representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of the Casa Del Mar Beach Resort bestowed the certificate to the honorees, presented them with gifts, and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination, and as their home away from

home.

Top reasons for returning to Aruba, provided by Mr. & Mrs. Levine were:

Aruba's welcoming people who have become like family to us.

Aruba's safety.

Aruba's picturesque sunsets & crystal-clear blue waters.

The variety of restaurants to choose from.

The consistent weather.

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to Mr. & Mrs. Levine for always having Aruba dear to their hearts. □



Enjoy a night of excitement, music, and acrobatics! Rhythms Circus Company Aruba is putting Aruba's name on the world stage

Rhythms Circus Company Aruba is a talented group of young people working daily to present their art in the form of acrobatics, dancing, acting and singing. After an impactful participation in one of America's biggest talent shows, they are now bringing their amazing talent to Aruba!

In a show full of light, music, and with performances to famous musical figures like Elvis Presley, Michael Jackson and Tina Turner, the group consisting of 15 people from various countries delights the audience with their artistic prowess at the Paseo Herencia Mall, every Wednesday and Friday



starting at 7pm. Each day has a different show, so you can attend both nights for the complete experience!

The group, under the leadership of directors and creators Diego Jaramillo and Yamila Hernandez are opening the doors to the

ballroom to our local audience as well as our visitors so that everyone can have the privilege of experiencing this wonderful show.

Hernandez explained that the idea for this project started in 2010 when she came to work in Aruba. After being on the island for a while she decided to stay and live here, and she met Diego Jaramillo, who is currently her partner. Together they came with the idea to establish a company together with other professional artists, with the goal of living from their art.

Hernandez says that the work is hard – all of the performers are professional artists, and while the production of the show is not a challenge for them, selling the idea proved difficult since at the time, there weren't any shows of its kind on the island.

America's Got Talent

Currently they are offering a show with music, choreography and at the end, they have a shocking acrobatics ending, one that was seen by thousands of people around the world when the group travelled to Los Angeles in the United States to represent Aruba in America's Got Talent. Hernandez said that the show was very important for them to meet the public present because people could experience this performance live and right before their eyes.

Their presentation in America's Got Talent "was incredible" and they were able to meet the jury and many other artists staying there for three months. But the exhaustion and physical toll was so great that Diego suffered an accident, and because of this, they had to cancel all future commitments.

"This is work for which you must have a lot of respect. Circus as such implies a lot of risk, we have to give all of ourselves, we need to be in

a physical state where you cannot stop training, there needs to be steadfastness; but if you go past the limit, your body cannot handle it. It seems that during this tour we went over the limit and Diego was injured right when we had to go sign up for the next part of the tour with America's Got Talent. That was frustrating," Yamila explained.

Thanks to their performance in America's Got Talent, they received a lot of offers. However, before that they travelled to Hungary, to the Budapest Circus Festival, and afterwards they decided to return to and remain in Aruba to show their talents up close at home.

Future projects

Next month in July the group is travelling to Italy to perform at the show "Tu si que vales", and in August they are travelling to France for the program "La France a un Incroyable Talent", completing their travels in November in China, to perform at the Wuqiao International Circus Festival. Even so, "these are short tours of maximum two weeks, because we are committed to our show in Aruba," Yamila explained.



Reservations and tickets

To make a reservation to see this incredible display of creativity and acrobatics, scan the QR code which will take you directly to their website for a booking. To find more information about RCCA, please visit their Instagram page @rcca-ruba.

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Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Paradise Beach Villas

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure to recognize Emerald Ambassadors of Aruba. This lovely couple was respectively honored with a certificate acknowledging their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honor certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, and 35 years or more consecutively.

The three honoring levels are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor	(10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Goodwill Ambassador	(20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Emerald Ambassador	(35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honorees were:

Emerald Ambassadors Mr. Jeffrey & Mrs. Deborah Hendler from Tennessee, United States.

Ms. Kimberley Richardson representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of the Paradise Beach Villas bestowed the certificate to the honorees, presented them with gifts, and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination, and as their home away from home.

Top reasons for returning to Aruba, provided by Mr. & Mrs. Hendler were:

Aruba's beaches
Aruba's consistent weather



Aruba's welcoming people
The variety of restaurants to choose from
Aruba's drinking water

Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to Mr. & Mrs. Hendler for always having Aruba dear to their hearts. □

On behalf of the Aruba

Watch out for Blue Crab Migration near Savaneta

(Oranjestad)—The department of nature & environment in Aruba are urging motorists to watch out for blue crabs crossing the road in Pos Chiquito to make their way to the ocean.

They added a new bright yellow road sign with "Land Crab Crossing" to remind people to be cautious while driving on the highway on Pos Chiquito with blue crabs. Blue crabs in Aruba are found plenty near the beach areas, especially in Pos Chiquito, because of the amount of mangroves. They are known to dig holes deep in the beach sand in seek of humidity. The diet of blue crabs consists of decomposed trees, insects, scorpions and rest of dead animals. Nesting season for blue crabs is between June & July.

Why protect blue crabs?

Because they are of high value for the ecology of the mangroves. Conserving the blue crabs is crucial for the preservation of mangroves.

Watch out for crossing blue crabs on the highway near Pos Chiquito & Santo Laro. □



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Article by Etnia Nativa

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Drinking water in Aruba

Episode CCXVI - 216

Every week, Etnia Nativa writes a new episode concerning culture and heritage, focusing on various aspects of native knowledge, transcendental wisdom, and the importance of upholding our true identity. The goal is to educate readers and encourage them to embrace a genuine island state of consciousness.

In this segment, Etnia Nativa shares some details regarding the beginning of the industrial production of drinking water on Aruba. Our island has no significant natural sources of fresh water (such as naturally occurring groundwater, rivers, or lakes). Add to that the very rain that falls. Today, our drinking water is obtained by desalination of seawater.

During the colonial era, many stone houses were built with an efficient system that allowed the collection of the scarce rainfall, while others depended on a few wells that were dug. Although the history of seawater desalination in Aruba began with the Gold Mining Company, it was not until 1932, with the beginning of the booming economic era, that seawater desalination became the most important source for the production of drinking water by the L.W.V.

When Lago Oil and Transport Company established itself in Aruba, a solution had to be found for the supply of drinking water. The distillation plant and stock reservoirs were projected in the central part of Aruba at Balashi, so that in subsequent expansions, the entire island could be supplied with water. And Through this process, Aruba received a novice in the field of water supply and distribution, namely that pure distilled seawater could reach every household through a city distribution center for drinking and domestic water needs. One year later, the first evaporator installation was put into operation at Balashi to serve first Oranjestad and then St. Nicolaas.

In a short time, the initial capacity of the storage reservoirs was increased in order to maintain a constant pressure on the distribution lines during peak hours by building water towers in Oranjestad and St. Nicolaas in 1939.

At that time, in the interior of the island, houses were



widely dispersed, and as the cost of expanding pipes was very high, this had to happen gradually over the years. The districts of Santa Cruz, Noord-Paadera, Pos Chiquito, Savaneta, Brasil, Papillon, Santa Martha, Siribana, and Cashero were part of a main pipeline.

Drinking water produced by WEB Aruba NV is pumped into storage tanks that serve as buffers for the desalination process and are installed at strategic high points on Aruba, with a total capacity of 65,393 cubic meters. Finally, the drinking water is pumped to the distribution system through a main header.


WEB Aruba NV has been producing water for the island since 1932 and also began generating Electric energy in 1958. It uses a combination of Multi-Stage Flash Distillation and Seawater Reverse Osmosis to desalinate seawater.

As a consequence of five well-defined steps, Aruba achieves the production of one of the purest drinking waters in the world, starting with the collection and subsequent filtration and reaching step number 3 of the desalination process, where the hard work begins. The ocean that surrounds us provides salt water that contains up to six thousand times more salt than fresh water. In desalination, the water is pushed through special membranes; this process is known as seawater reverse osmosis (SWRO). This reduces the salt level in the water from 55,000 ppm to just 400 ppm, but the water is still too salty to be used for drinking, so they repeat the process, bringing the salinity down to 8–10 ppm. To make sure that the process was successful, the company conducted laboratory tests and thoroughly analyzed the results.

The last step is its remineralization, in which certain minerals are incorporated into the water. At that point, the water is allowed to run over chunks of limestone, where it absorbs the important minerals it lost in the previous step. This not only ensures that the water meets WHO standards for mineral content but also makes the water taste better.

The last step (5) consists of adding certain phosphates regulated by the NSF International Organization to be transported to their final destinations through the pipeline network. This element is incorporated to prevent the inside of the pipe from slowly deteriorating, releasing iron and copper particles into the water, which would compromise its purity. Not only are phosphates added, but the water is also disinfected with ultraviolet (UV) rays to ensure that there are not even the slightest micro contaminants present. Aruba is a world leader when it comes to healthy, quality drinking water.

If you have a keen interest in exploring Aruba's heritage, Etnia Nativa's experience is highly recommended. The owner's firsthand explanations and insights set Etnia Nativa apart of the rest. A personal touch which adds depth and authenticity to the experience, allowing visitors to forge a meaningful connection with the island's history, engaging valuable insights and a more profound understanding of Aruba's cultural traditions.

Appointments are necessary to ensure a personalized and immersive experience. etnianativa03@gmail.com or WhatsApp (messages only) at +297 592 2702. 



Aruba's cultural and literary development: Then and now

(Oranjestad)—The Aruban culture has seen many substantial developments over the course of a century. With the introduction of the Lago Refinery at the turn of the 20th century, followed by the breakout of the Second World War and the general incentive for political independence during the mid-century, a cultural identity on the island began to take form and have since developed through international and local influences.

In the pre-industrial era of the 19th century, much could not be said about a cultural identity on the island. Still being a part of a Dutch colonial territory at the same, as well as not having political or economic autonomy (Curacao was the center of commerce, cultural life, and political management of the Netherland Antilles at the time), the small population of Aruba consisted mostly of farmers and fishermen, tending to their crops and their cattle, or going out to fish to provide for their family. As Quito Nicolaas states in his article *Historia di Literatura Arubiano: E Bida Cultural* (Literary History of Aruba: Cultural Life), "during the pre-industrial period, there were no significant economic activity that could have created a cultural ambience, with only one way to generate profit at the time for the subsistence of Aruban families."

It wasn't until the introduction of the Lago Refinery in San Nicolas in 1928, that the island saw a small boom in cultural manifestations and entertainment,



as farmers left the 'cunucu' (country) life to work in the refinery, which resulted in Aruba acquiring a different economic pillar. Before this, entertainment and cultural manifestations were mostly experiences by local parishes and the island's elite, who often partook in cultural and entertaining activities around the island, like going to the movie theater or coming together to share poetry on Sundays after church.

Literary life

Throughout the 19th century and up until the 1940s, there were also not much

trace of a cultural climate for the cultural-literary sector on the island. Primary education was introduced on the island mid-19th century, followed by secondary and higher education around the late 30's and 40's. It wasn't until the 1950s, with the introduction of the E.R.N.A agreement in 1951 and the signing of the Statute in 1954, which allowed more space for and control over the economic and cultural development of Aruba, that the literary life on the island began to grow substantially compared to decades before. This was in response

to local institutions established in the 1940s for cultural and literary growth on the island, but that did not yet capture the attention of the general public. The 1950 brought with it a boom of literary production on the island, like those of V.S. Piterella, as well as migrant authors José Ramón Vicioso y Rings William Rufus, who have also contributed to the literary development on the island. The literary movement was further promoted by local broadcasters Voz di Aruba and Radio Kelkboom, with their regular broadcast of literary works.

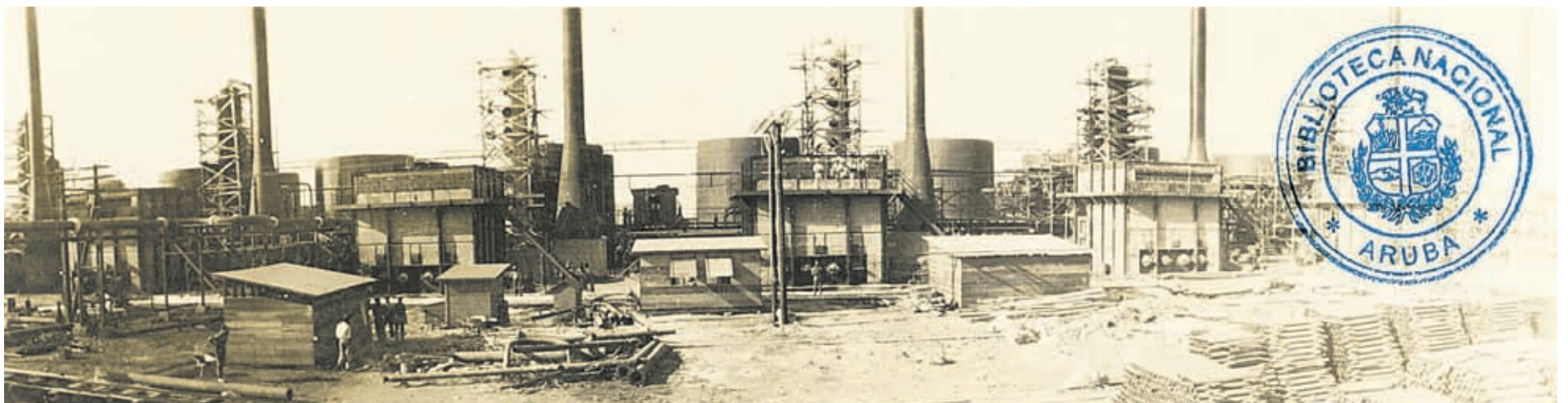
The 50s and 60s also saw the influence of international cultures, especially that of the United States. During this time, because of international influences as well as the continued prosperity of the oil refinery, cultural traditions in Aruba began to really take form and become widespread, as different worldly and local concepts were introduced in the Aruban society. With the establishment of local

television broadcast station Tele-Aruba in 1963, and with time and possibilities, local programs such as "Nos Tera" ("Our Land") started to pay more attention to the Aruban culture and worked to form a cultural consciousness in the community. The 1960s also saw the rise of local authors and artists, who were more comfortable in producing works in our native tongue, Papiamentu, but who also produced works in Spanish, English and Dutch. This new phenomenon was in response to the interaction between economic growth, individual prosperity, cultural life and literary expression.

The 21st century

Nowadays, international influence on our culture is still prevalent, especially those from Latin America, the United States and The Netherlands. Nevertheless, there also exists a strong cultural identity and traditions that are exclusive to the Aruban culture, often manifesting during traditional celebrations, like Dia di San Juan/ Dera Gai (St. John's Day), Dia di Himno y Bandera (National Hymn and Flag Day), Camping during Easter and much more. With the surge of social media in the last decade, artistic voices, especially those of the younger generation, has become even more prevalent and easily accessible to the community of Aruba through online platforms such as Facebook, Instagram and TikTok.

Source: *Historia di Literatura Arubiano: E Bida Cultural* by J.R. "Quito" Nicolaas



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 36 Barb in a

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Yesterday's answer

8 Misspoke 24 Salt

10 Train 25 Haul in

puller 27 Kidman

11 Titled of film

28 Traps

16 Left on 29 Iraqi port

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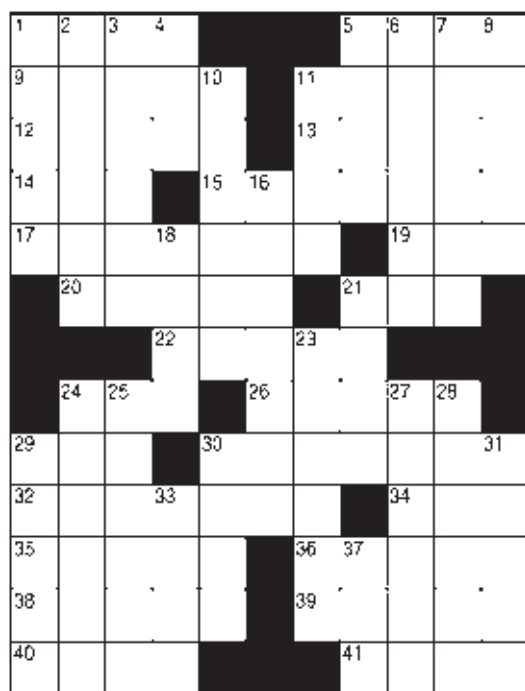
18 Drawn 31 Artist

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21 Seethe 33 Sediment

23 Messages with 37 Derby or

followers boater



7-26

AXYDI.BAAXR
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One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

7-26 CRYPTOQUOTE

D B J B J H B D I L G U M V B

Y G U N I Y M G P B S Y V N B L B U N Q

M V B P S M B G P S C C

— S C B Z S U N B D M V B X D B S M

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: BE HUMBLE, FOR YOU ARE MADE OF EARTH. BE NOBLE, FOR YOU ARE MADE OF STARS. — SERBIAN PROVERB



Taylor Swift performs during "The Eras Tour," May 5, 2023, at Nissan Stadium in Nashville, Tenn. The pop star has officially earned more No. 1 albums than any other woman in history. Associated Press

Millennial Money: Taylor is priceless, but being a Swiftie isn't

By ALANA BENSON of NerdWallet

I don't have Taylor Swift tickets. I didn't survive Ticketmaster's Great War, I haven't been blessed with a magical code, and Mama Swift likely won't pluck me from obscurity to watch from the VIP section.

None of this has stopped me from buying friendship bracelet-making supplies, multiple concert outfit options and a clear stadium-approved bag and I'm not alone. Since Taylor Swift embarked on her record-shattering Eras Tour, her fans have brought shocking economic activity to each city she visits. Resale ticket prices alone are in the thousands, but participating in the Swiftdom extends far beyond a seat at the show.

WHO'S TAYLOR SWIFT ANYWAY?

Why are people so willing to spend enormous amounts of money on a concert? Well, this isn't just any concert. The Eras Tour is a rewind through not just Taylor's most formative years, but mine as well. How often can you hear songs that were played at your middle school dances on the same night as the songs that kept you company during the pandemic? For many of us, Taylor Swift isn't just the music industry, she's the soundtrack to our best and hardest moments.

And for some Swifties, the Eras Tour makes up for shows they didn't get to attend in the past.

"I couldn't afford to go to Reputation or 1989," Ginnie, a New York City-based Swiftie content creator, says of previous concerts. Ginnie, who prefers not to disclose her last name, runs the @thethriftyswiftie TikTok account. "So the last tour that I went to was Red, and when she did the Rep(utation) set and the 1989 set, I was like, 'This is insane, I feel like I'm getting to attend those tours that I'm so sad that I missed.'"

But Ginnie is quick to point out that her finances were top of mind when it came to attending. □

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Editor

Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.
Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668
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Editors

Pilar Flores
Richard Brooks
Angenette Figueroa

Sales

Mark Gomes
Sulaika Croes

Classifieds

classified@cspnv.com

Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website

Juan Luis Pinto

Weststraat 22
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The Gaslight Anthem were labeled 'Bruce Springsteen copycats.' Now the Boss is on their new single

By **MARIA SHERMAN**
AP Music Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — For years, a common critique of the beloved New Jersey rock band The Gaslight Anthem was to label them "Bruce Springsteen" copycats. Now they've released a song with the Boss.

"History Books," the title track from the band's first album in nine years, is big-hearted freeway rock, made ascendent by frontman Brian Fallon and Springsteen's tremulous harmonies.

"There's a definitely a little wink in there," Fallon tells The Associated Press about the song and his band's long-held comparisons to the Boss, which once escalated to the point where he wrote to his fans, "My name isn't Bruce."

"Some people kind of wrote us off. It's like 'Now write this off,'" he says. "We've got the approval of the guy! What are you going to say? You can't say anything!" If there is an intersection where Green Day, Social Distortion, and the Replacements' various styles of melodic punk meets Springsteen, it is found in The Gaslight Anthem. The sound landed them a fiercely loyal fanbase from



This combination of photos shows Brian Fallon of The Gaslight Anthem performing at the Shaky Knees Music Festival in Atlanta on May 6, 2023, left, and Bruce Springsteen performing with the E Street Band in New York on April 1, 2023.

their beginnings in 2006 up until 2015, when the band embarked on a seven-year hiatus. It was briefly interrupted in 2018, when The Gaslight Anthem got back together to play a few shows celebrating the 10-year anniversary of their retro rock album, "The '59 Sound," a fan favorite. But the break resumed until 2022, when the band felt they had something to say.

"We didn't want to make a record that felt sub-heart," Fallon explains in his own vernacular. Taking time apart allowed them to work through concerns of being "the old guys playing the circuit" and become better musicians in the process. Fallon, who has established a friendship with his idol over the years, connected with Springsteen during the

hiatus. "The E Street Band took a big break, too," Fallon says, so he went to the Boss last year with a request for guidance. "It was going to seek the guy on the hill for wisdom, but really, it was Federici's Pizza in Freehold (New Jersey). But some mythical work was done at that table. We brought the band back together." When they headed home,

Associated Press

Springsteen texted, "Hey, why don't you write us a duet? I'll come sing with you."

"I never would've had the guts to ask him that," Fallon says, comparing their relationship to "being friends with Batman."

Fallon wrote the song by himself; Springsteen didn't provide notes. He was on tour at the time, so he recorded the song in Dublin, Ireland over a few days off. Fallon speaks about the collaboration in disbelief. "It's really cool to have one of my top three heroes singing on a song I wrote at my desk in my house. It's insane," he laughs.

He describes the song as "unusual" for The Gaslight Anthem, because it is "not a friendly song," inspired by a lesson he learned in therapy: "The only people who have a problem with boundary setting is the people who are breaking them."

"I imagine that's something (Springsteen) can relate to, with his level of fame," he explains.

The Gaslight Anthem's sixth full-length album, "History Books," will be released October 27 on Rich Mahogany Recordings via Thirty Tigers. □

Jason Aldean's 'Try That in a Small Town' rockets to No. 2 on charts



Jason Aldean performs during CMA Fest 2022 in Nashville, Tenn., on June 9, 2022. Aldean released the single "Try That in a Small Town" this month.

Associated Press

By **MARIA SHERMAN**
AP Music Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Jason Aldean's "Try That in a Small

Town" is experiencing exponential growth following controversy over its music video.

"Try That in a Small Town," which was released in May, debuted at No. 2 on the Billboard Hot 100 this week just behind BTS's Jung Kook solo single "Seven," featuring Latto. The track experienced the biggest sales week for a country song in over 10 years.

According to Luminate, the song hit 11.7 million on-demand audio and video streams between July 14 and 20, marking a 1,000% increase from the previous week. Prior to the music video release on July 14, the track accounted for 987,000 streams in the U.S. Digital song sales increased from 1,000 to 228,000, in those same weeks, respec-

tively.

The music video for the song lasted just one week-end on Country Music Television before the network pulled it in response to an outcry over its setting and lyrics. When the network removed the video from its rotation, it had 350,000 views on YouTube. Now that number is now over 16 million, and it is the No. 1 trending video under the "music" category.

In the visual, Aldean — who has been awarded country music artist of the decade by the Academy of Country Music — performs in front of the Maury County Courthouse in Columbia, Tennessee. It is the site of the 1946

Columbia race riot and the 1927 mob lynching of an 18-year-old Black teenager named Henry Choate.

Aldean's video received fervent criticism online, with some claiming the visual is a "dog whistle" and others labeling it "pro-lynching."

"Cuss out a cop, spit in his face / Stomp on the flag and light it up / Yeah, ya think you're tough," Aldean sings on the track, written by Neil Thrasher, Kurt Allison, Tully Kennedy, and Kelley Lovelace. "Got a gun that my granddad gave me / They say one day they're gonna round up / Well, that (expletive) might fly in the city, good luck / Try that in a small town." □

Ledecky wins gold in 1,500 at the swimming worlds to tie mark set by Michael Phelps

By STEPHEN WADE

AP Sports Writer

FUKUOKA, Japan (AP) —

Katie Ledecky won the 1,500-meter freestyle with ease on Tuesday at the World Aquatics Championships in a landmark victory which made her the most decorated female swimmer at the worlds with 20 golds overall, 15 of which have come in individual events.

That ties Michael Phelps' record at the worlds for individual gold medals.

American Ryan Murphy added the second American gold medal on Tuesday, winning the 100-meter backstroke. But as usual when the 26-year-old Ledecky swims, she's the story.

Ledecky has won seven Olympic golds, the first coming more than a decade ago in London. And she's talking about racing not just in next year's Paris Olympics, but perhaps also in Los Angeles in 2028.

"I never dreamed of winning one Olympic gold," Ledecky said. "So after I did it, it was like, 'OK, the rest is icing on the cake, a cherry



Katie Ledecky of United States reacts after the women's 1500m freestyle finals at the World Swimming Championships in Fukuoka, Japan, Tuesday, July 25, 2023.

on top,' whatever you call it. I'm just trying to build a really big cake, I guess."

That cake is getting bigger for one of the greatest freestylers the sport has ever seen.

She won Tuesday in 15 minutes, 26.27 seconds, the third quickest time of her career.

"The last couple of years

I've just tried to be really locked in on my stroke," Ledecky said, improving quickly post-pandemic. "That was a really good performance from me very pleased."

Italy's Simona Quadarella finished 17 seconds behind Ledecky in 15:43.31, with Li Bingjie of China third in 15:45.71.

Ledecky will compete in the 800 on Saturday her favorite race and is set to become the only person to win six titles at the worlds in the same event.

Murphy, a four-time Olympic gold medalist and the defending world champion in the 200 backstroke, edged Italian Thomas Ceccon by .05 seconds. Mur-

phy clocked 52.22 and Ceccon 52.27, with bronze for American Hunter Armstrong in 52.58.

"It's awesome to go against a great field, and it's awesome to get two Americans on the podium," Murphy said. "The USA is off to a start. We're starting to build some momentum and we can just keep it rolling from here."

The big shock was 18-year-old Romanian David Popovici, who was a clear favorite in the 200 free. He finished fourth behind two British swimmers Matthew Richards in 1:44.30, and Tom Dean in 1:44.32. South Korean Hwang Sunwoo took bronze (1:44.42) with Popovici finishing fourth in 1:44.90. "I'm glad it happened now and I'm sure it has a meaning and I'm going to learn from it."

Ruta Meilutyte of Lithuania captured gold in the women's 100 breaststroke in 1:04.62, ahead of Tatjana Schoenmaker of South Africa and third-place Lydia Jacoby of the U.S. World-record holder Lilly King was fourth. The American finished in 1:06.02. □

Associated Press

Naoya Inoue stops Stephen Fulton and wins world titles in his 4th weight class

TOKYO (AP) — Naoya Inoue became a world champion in his fourth weight class Tuesday night when he stopped Stephen Fulton in the eighth round to claim the WBC and WBO super bantamweight titles.

Inoue (25-0, 22 KOs) made an impressive debut at 122 pounds with a dominant performance against the previously unbeaten Fulton (21-1) at Ariake Arena. Fulton had held both of his belts since 2021 and was considered the top fighter in the division.

The Japanese star knocked down Fulton in the opening minute of the eighth round with a big left hand after stunning him with a body jab and a punishing right.

Inoue finished moments later, pummeling Fulton with punches in the corner to force the referee to halt the bout.

The 30-year-old Inoue improved to 20-0 in world title fights with a whopping 18 stoppages, improving his standing as one of the world's top pound-for-pound boxers.

Inoue held all four major belts at 118 pounds after beating Paul Butler last December, prompting him to move up to challenge Fulton. Their bout initially was scheduled for May 7, but Inoue injured his hand in training camp, forcing a 2 1/2-month delay.

"Everything I was thinking about was to fight him this

year," Inoue said through an interpreter. "However, unfortunately, I got injured, and I had to postpone this fight. I am sorry to my team and Fulton's team, but thank you so much for accepting this fight once again. I am so happy right now."

Inoue took charge against Fulton with his superior speed and relentless jab from the first round onward, dominating the early rounds.

The American fought back more effectively in the middle rounds, but Inoue's advantages became insurmountable before he put together yet another high-light-reel finish.

Inoue has been unstoppable

in his pro career, which began with a 108-pound world title victory in only his sixth professional fight. He became a 115-pound

champion in 2014, and he reigned in that division until 2018, when he became a bantamweight champion. □



Naoya Inoue of Japan, left, celebrates after beating Stephen Fulton of the U.S. in the eighth round of a boxing match for the unified WBC and WBO super-bantamweight world titles in Tokyo, Tuesday, July 25, 2023.

Associated Press

Boston Bruins' Patrice Bergeron announces retirement after 19 seasons

By JIMMY GOLEN

AP Sports Writer

BOSTON (AP) — Patrice Bergeron, who led the Boston Bruins to the 2011 championship and two other trips to the Stanley Cup Final over two decades in which he established himself as the NHL's dominant two-way forward and one of the most respected players in the game, announced Tuesday "with a full heart and a lot of gratitude" that he was retiring.

"I have given the game everything that I have physically and emotionally, and the game has given me back more than I could have ever imagined," the Bruins captain said in a statement posted on social media. "As I step away today, I have no regrets. I have only gratitude that I lived my dream, and excitement for what is next for my family and I. I left everything out there and I'm humbled and honored it was representing this incredible city and for the Boston Bruins fans."

The Bruins are expected to retire Bergeron's No. 37, making him the 12th player so honored. He is a certain first-ballot inductee for the Hockey Hall of Fame when he is eligible in three years. "Patrice is a perfect exam-



Boston Bruins NHL hockey forward Patrice Bergeron displays his Stanley Cup Championship ring to members of the media outside the Boston Harbor Hotel, in Boston, Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2011, following the unveiling of the rings during ceremonies for the hockey team.

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ple of what Boston Bruins hockey is all about," said team president Cam Neely, himself a Hall of Fame player whose number has been retired by the Original Six franchise. "He has been an amazing teammate and extraordinary leader, helping establish a culture of work ethic, respect and selflessness."

But Bergeron missed the first

four games of the playoffs with a herniated disk, and the Presidents Trophy winners lost in the first round of the playoffs to the Florida Panthers.

Bergeron wrote Tuesday that he knows "how blessed and lucky I feel to have had the career that I have had, and that I have the opportunity to leave the game I love on my terms."

"It wasn't a decision that I came to lightly," he said. "But after listening to my body, and talking with my family, I know in my heart that this is the right time to step away from playing the game I love."

In all, Bergeron scored 427 goals with 613 assists in 19 seasons with the Bruins, who selected him in the second round of the 2003 draft.

He added 50 more goals and 78 points in the play-offs, leading the Bruins to the Stanley Cup Final three times, and scoring twice — one of them shorthanded in the Game 7 clincher against Vancouver. The French-speaking native of the Quebec City suburbs also won two Olympic gold medals with Canada.

He is third all-time for the 100-year-old franchise in goals, points (1,040) and games played (1,294), and fourth in assists behind only Hall of Famers Ray Bourque, Johnny Bucyk and Bobby Orr. With Bergeron's retirement, Brad Marchand becomes the only remaining member of the 2011 championship team, though Milan Lucic re-signed with the team this summer after eight seasons away.

To his teammates, Bergeron wrote: "I have tried to learn something from each and every one of you and I always tried to be the best teammate that I could be. I will never forget your trust, the laughs, the endless memories, the ups and downs, and ultimately the long lasting friendships. I will forever be grateful being a part of such an exceptional group of men, and I will carry the pride of winning in 2011 with me forever." □

Naoya Inoue stops Stephen Fulton and wins world titles in his 4th weight class

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pion in his fourth weight class Tuesday night when



Naoya Inoue of Japan, left, celebrates after beating Stephen Fulton of the U.S. in the eighth round of a boxing match for the unified WBC and WBO super-bantamweight world titles in Tokyo, Tuesday, July 25, 2023.

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